



Thomas A. Schatz
President

March 6, 2007

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

Soon you will be voting on several amendments to S. 4, the Improving America's Security Act of 2007. Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) is offering three amendments that the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) believes will improve the legislation. They are:

- S. Amdt. 294 – This amendment will provide a sunset provision for S. 4 in five years. Currently, the implementation authorities never expire. A sunset provision will force Congress to conduct appropriate oversight, to review and strengthen such implementation authority.
- S. Amdt. 325 – This amendment will require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to comply with the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) of 2002 before funds in S. 4 can be spent on grant programs in DHS. As of today, DHS has not complied with IPIA. There must be accountability for every dollar that agencies spend in order to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- S. Amdt. 345 – In February of 2006, the Deficit Reduction Act created the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program. Currently, S. 4 proposes to create another interoperability program that is practically identical to the program created a year ago. This amendment would streamline the interoperable communication grant programs that are administered at DHS by combining the two programs into one. To do otherwise would create unnecessary and wasteful bureaucracy.

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of CCAGW, I urge you to support the Coburn amendments. All votes on S. 4 will be among those considered in *CCAGW's 2007 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.